



PUBLISHED BY

The
Grantham Canal
Society
CHARITY No: 507337

**DECEMBER
2015**

A few words from Mike Stone
Now is the opportunity to look forward and plan for the coming year! There's much to do on the canal, particularly the lengths from Lock 16 to the A1.

We also need to raise funds; keep records of our activities; engage with communities along the whole length of the canal & source a new person to receive trip boat enquiries.

Oh! , and I nearly forgot, also complete the GCHI Project! So if you are able to help in any way please put yourself forward! Volunteers are precious to the Society and we will try to find you a task you can enjoy and makes you feel fulfilled.

Go on; take a risk and contact Julie Henderson!

ON BEHALF OF ALL
THE GCS
COMMITTEE MAY I
WISH YOU AND
YOUR FAMILIES AN
ENJOYABLE AND
PEACEFUL
CHRISTMAS AND A
VERY HAPPY NEW
YEAR.

Mike Stone.

Woolsthorpe Middle Lock (or Lock 15 as it's commonly called) is a lot more than just a Heritage rebuilding site ... it's a first class training ground as well! Every volunteer that participates in an activity gains knowledge. This knowledge will not only be used on tasks at Lock 15 but also on the further 3 locks this project encompasses. Amongst our volunteers we now have fully trained & assessed Mini Digger operators, Dumper Truck drivers and powered abrasive wheel operatives. These skills are nationally accredited enabling those people to ply their trade elsewhere should they wish.

So why don't you get in touch and learn a new skill - contact volunteer@granthamcanal.org and find out all about this fabulous project and the benefits that could be yours.

Ed



NOTTS & DERBY BRANCH

The Notts and Derby branch of the IWA is organising a series of public meetings. We are hoping to attract lots of new faces to the meetings and have arranged a very interesting and varied group of speakers. Non IWA members will be very welcome to attend.

We meet on the second Thursday of the month throughout most of the year.

**Meetings are held at 7.45 pm at the
Poppy & Pint, Pierrepont Road,
Lady Bay, West Bridgford,
Nottingham,
NG2-5DX**

about 5 minutes from the A6011/A52
(ring road) junction at Gamston.

Thursday, December 10th 2015

Christmas Social with buffet including an illustrated talk, "The Montgomery Canal" by Mick Golds

Thursday, January 14th 2016

An illustrated talk by Les Reid of the Newark Heritage Barge project about the latest restoration activities on Trent barge "Leicester Trader".

Thursday, February 11th 2016

Annual General Meeting. Followed by an illustrated talk on "The Canals of Paris" by John Wilkinson.

Thursday, March 10th 2016

"A Cruise on the Cut" - an illustrated talk by Derek Harris concerning the architecture and engineering along the canal network.

Further information about meetings can be obtained by email, address :-
nottsandderbys@waterways.org.uk

The Inland Waterways Association
Non-profit Distributing Company



The
Grantham Canal
Society
CHARITY No: 507337



Supported by
The National Lottery
through the Heritage Lottery Fund



The GRANTHAM CANAL HERITAGE INITIATIVE



The recent heavy rain has slowed progress at the lock somewhat. Everyone was bogged down in the gooey & slippery surface so 80 tonnes of quarry waste was dropped on the access road to try and make life more tolerable.



Brick cleaning is still in progress as is evident from the picture above. The permission has now been received to extend the compound by 25 metres to the north east. The workforce is currently clearing the scrub.



Many thanks to Dave Cross for details & photos

Talks and Events Diary

If you can help out with any events, please contact Rosemary on communityandevents@granthamcanal.org or 07971173069

2015 bookings

Monday 14th December

Talk: Ashby Canal Association

2016 bookings

Tues 12th January

Talk: Hougham and Marston Local History Society

Wed 17th February

Iron Age talk for Harlaxton WI. Open meeting – canal society members particularly welcome – proceeds for GCS Funds - there are also several other talks on the Iron Age and Bess of Hardwick booked – let me know if you are interested.

Mon 14th March

Talk: Melton Mowbray branch Leics & Rutland Wildlife Trust

Wed 18th May

Talk: Bingham U3A

Tues 14th- Sun 17th July

U3A summer school at Harlaxton Manor – Rosemary will be covering 8 teaching sessions on Grantham Canal history, restoration projects, ecology and environment, canal crafts, etc. to include visits and boat rides.

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter for all the latest news
Also please visit our Facebook pages "The Three Shires" and "Grantham Canal Society" where you can find updates on lock progress and items of general interest.



Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome
To contact us please send your email to:
bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk



Did you know?

That the Grantham Canal was built & operational (1797) before ...

The Battle of Trafalgar (1805)



Painting by William Turner

The Battle of Waterloo (1815)



Painting by Clément-Auguste Andrieux

**DO YOU HAVE AN
UNWANTED CHRISTMAS
PRESENT - OR OTHER
SUCH ITEM?
Why not ...**

SELL - & DONATE

HOW "Sell & Donate" Works:

Selling: If you have an electrical or domestic item you no longer require then place it in our "**SELL - & DONATE**" feature along with a guide price. Please note that the proceeds of all items will form 100% donation to the Society.

Buying: If the item is of interest to you then contact the seller and agree a price. You must then collect the item at a mutually agreed time and hand over a cheque made out to "*The Grantham Canal Society*".

To proceed:

Please send details of your items to bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk for entry into the next edition & don't forget to include your contact phone no. or email address. You must advise bridge when your item has been sold. Items will be displayed for a maximum of 2 months.

Flora & Fauna along the Grantham Canal by James Faulconbridge

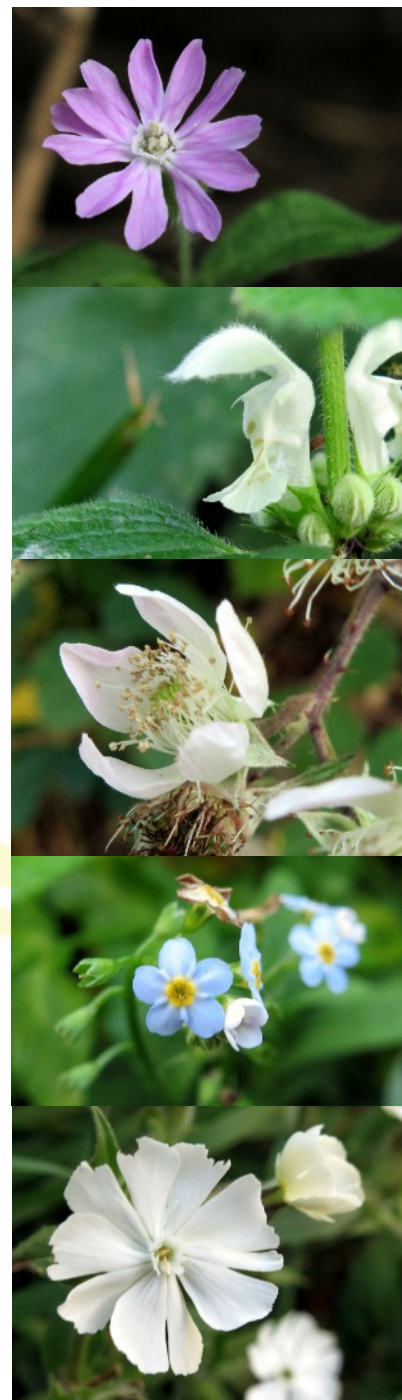
November is typically the tail-end of the flowering season – the majority of the late flowering species have come to an end and the early spring flowers such as snowdrop and arum lily are still a couple of months off. However this autumn has been surprisingly mild and there are still some good splashes of colour to be seen along the Grantham Canal.

The stretch of the canal which runs from The Drift in Harlaxton through to the A1 at Grantham is set in a cutting which provides sheltered conditions, allowing for late-flowering plants to persist longer into the autumn and winter before the cold and frost finish them off. Seventeen species were still flowering in the middle of November.

Some of these have typically long seasons – species such as the yellow-flowered wood avens, the delicate-pink herb Robert, annual meadowgrass and white dead-nettle can be found flowering from spring right through into the autumn. Red and white campion too were both still in flower side-by-side on the rising banks beside the tow-path.

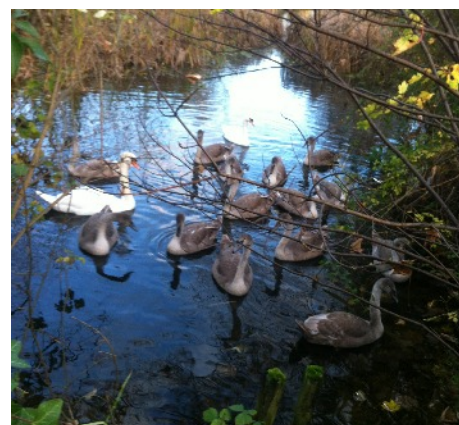
Some species had just the odd flower still hanging in there – the subtle-green ivy flowers are a great source of autumn nectar and can be found buzzing with bees and hoverflies through September and October, and just a few flowers were still open in November. The brambles have been mostly picked clean of blackberries by the flocks of fieldfares which have recently arrived, but in amongst the browning leaves were a few off-white flowers making a final futile attempt.

There were even the odd spring flowering species which was flowering out of season – perhaps due to the mild conditions. Forget-me-not, which proliferate in April and May, had a few sky-blue flowers newly opened.



Richard A. has sent me these photos of swans with their cygnets taken in the Ladybay Section. Good to see!

Ed



Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome

To contact us please send your email to:

bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk

The
Grantham Canal
Society
CHARITY No: 507337

MEMBERSHIP CARD PRIVILEGES

Please note that a current membership card must be produced to qualify for a discount



MIDLAND CHANDLERS

Willington

DISCOUNT 5%

<http://midlandchandlers.co.uk>



GURKHA SQUARE NEPALESE & INDIAN RESTAURANT in Grantham
20% discount from Sunday to Thursday inclusive

10% discount on Fridays & Saturdays
There will be no discount during December

<http://gurkhasquarerestaurant.co.uk>

GREEN LIVING

SUPPLIERS & INSTALLERS OF ARTIFICIAL GRASS

10% Discount to GCS Members who purchase one of their Artificial Grass products & have it installed by them.
Phone 0115 8450340
or 07463 890665

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY?

We really need all the support we can gain in order to carry out the restoration of this beautiful canal.

Visit www.granthamcanal.org
FOR DETAILS

Events Round Up

Rosemary's failed double back flip in her kitchen rather altered our plans. Some talks have been rescheduled and some we've managed to do – taking with us all manner of apparatus – wheelchair, walking frame, perching stool and with help from Kate! So equipped, we managed to talk to Aslockton Local History Group and The Triumph Owners Club (motorcycles) Leicester Branch. David Lyneham-Brown flew our flag at the Lincolnshire Waterways Event in Sleaford – and did some useful networking. Workparty member David Lane took the information boards to Barnstone Coffee morning. Talks/presentations continue to bolster our funds and raise awareness of the canal, our aims and our achievements. Much background activity continues; with meetings in connection with the interpretive aspect of the GCHI project; forming links with Grantham Collage and organising an exhibition in Grantham Museum starting in March 2016.

We needed to set the date for Discovery Day 2016 rather swiftly - so that it could be included in the Towpath Talk Wall Planner - Sunday October 9th.

Thank you to all who have helped us, in whatever shape or form over the last 12 months, this really is appreciated. Wishing everyone the compliments of the season, a happy, healthy and constructive 2016!

Tony Jackson

Volunteer Call

Two extremes of activity this month. We are in need of a home based trip boat and bookings administrator and an outdoors Ranger for Redmile and Muston Gorse area. Paul Dadford, Rangers Team Lead-member says "Being a Ranger is a great way to enjoy the Grantham Canal. Our Rangers play an important role in keeping the canal litter free and reporting any problems to our maintenance teams and the Canal & River Trust. They also help us promote public interest in the canal and the work of the Grantham Canal Society." Contact Paul for a further discussion email pdadford@yahoo.co.uk or call 07762647874

At home and wanting to give more support? Taking the Three Shires bookings is one of the key roles for GCS as it is the primary income source to support our activities. Please contact me for a discussion of the role and commitment involved, call 07762 647874

Volunteer Communications

Two people responded after last months request for views on using a forum, closed Facebook group or other. One 'other' is a web based team communication system, have a look at www.basecamp.com I'm still seeking your views please, talk to me about this urgent and important issue before a decision is made.

Coming months Saturday Work Parties: (weather dependent of course), activities may change, check GCS website and Facebook for updates.

Date	Activity	Meet at	Time
Sat 19 Dec	Lock 16 - A1winter maintenance boat & towpath	Depot	9 -4 pm
Sat 9 Jan	Lock 16 - A1winter maintenance boat & towpath	Depot	9 -4 pm
Sat 16 Jan	Lock 16 - A1winter maintenance boat & towpath	Depot	9 -4 pm
Sat 23 Jan	Cropwell Bishop with the RAF	Mem. Hall	9.30 -4 pm
Sat 30 Jan	Lock 16 - A1winter maintenance boat & towpath	Depot	9 -4 pm

Bring your lunch and a flask; wear work gear and steel toecaps. Bring your lifejacket if you own one please.

Any questions and to tell us you are coming please.

Contact Details: volunteer@granthamcanal.org /

ian.wakefield@granthamcanal.org or send a text to Julie on 07762647874 or Ian on 07789 383266



Your comments, news items or photos are always very welcome

To contact us please send your email to:

bridge@cygnusweb.co.uk

